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—BY—
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THE SOUTH AND PROTECTION.

The Southern section of the Union abounds in raw materials. This is not only so as to minerals but as to cotton, wool and lumber. Our section is also highly favored as an agricultural region. It can, if necessary, produce all it consumes in the way of meats and bread stuffs, to say nothing of its superior adaptability to fruit raising. Virginia and North Carolina are now leading the world in the quality of apples they are producing. Georgia and Tennessee are ahead of anything in melons, Georgia and Alabama have demonstrated that they can lead in the production of peaches, while Florida is champion of the world in the quality of oranges.

What the South needs is hundreds and thousands of manufacturing enterprises to turn its raw materials into finished products. The thousands of men and women who would be employed in such factories would become consumers and would create heavy demand for Southern farm products.

It is admitted by men of all parties that the Protective system of the Republican party stimulates production. It is also an acknowledged fact that Protection has made the Eastern part of the United States a great manufacturing region and enlarged its wealth to a marvelous extent. If the people of the South are wise they will stop denouncing a system that can do so much for them, and not let the opportunity pass to avail themselves of its benefits. Protection means more factories for the South, profitable employment for thousands of its men and women, a great demand for its agricultural products and fruits, and the keeping of millions of dollars at home that are now sent to other sections for things we can produce from our abundant raw materials.

NO CHANGE IN ELECTION METHODS.

The Democratic party in Virginia is absolutely under control of a machine that is determined to perpetuate its power. This machine has reached a state of perfect indifference to the criticisms of honest men and laughs when its infamy is mentioned. It has fastened its fangs upon the body politic and will never let loose until stung by the thunder voice of an indignant and outraged people. There are thousands of honest men in the Democratic ranks who have submitted to the control of this machine, hoping that time would bring a healthy reaction and that men of honest purposes would again direct the workings of the party.

There has been a great clamor throughout the State for years for reform in the election laws. The election methods which have been set in operation by the Democratic machine have blackened the fair name of the old Commonwealth and placed its honor and welfare in the hands of ring politicians, who fatten on corruption. The present Legislature of Virginia is the offspring of machine methods and is the obedient child of its vicious parent. It has demonstrated that it has no desire to give the people an honest law for depositing their ballots and choosing their representatives. Every proposition that has been advanced for making changes in the present dishonest laws has been met with a smile of derision. A correspondent of the Lynchburg News as soon as the General Assembly met stated that the Legislature would hardly change a law that had given it a solid membership in that body. The prediction of that correspondent has been verified. No effort or disposition has been made to do anything in the way of reform. If ever we are to have honest elections in our State they will have to come from or through some other medium than the Democratic party, which is dominated by an unscrupulous and unblushing machine. It has secured control by fraud and will hold it, as long as it can, by the same methods.

DUTY OF VIRGINIA REPUBLICANS.

We have great confidence in the power of the Republican party in Virginia when it is thoroughly united. The greatest drawback to its success has been occasioned, to a very great extent, by the unfair election laws originated and kept in force by the Democratic party. It is not denied that in many sections of the State fraud is used, to whatever extent is necessary, for securing the returns for Democratic candidates. It is also true that in those sections where fraud does not prevail, or only to a limited extent, that a depressing effect is produced by the possibilities of the present election laws. Many Republicans think it useless to try to do anything for their party while it is placed at such a disadvantage.

The strength and influence of the party, however, have been greatly damaged by internal dissensions. Quarrels among the leaders have discouraged and disgusted many of the private in the ranks. If these disputes could be discontinued and

harmony restored the Republican party in Virginia would once again be a powerful and hopeful organization.

The people want peace in the party. Do the leaders want it? Are they sincere in their party faith? If so, they should take immediate steps to rally every Republican in the State under the party flag for the great battle which is to be fought in all the States next fall. With a resolute fight several Congressmen can be elected from Virginia. But to accomplish such a result every Republican must do his duty. The leaders will have to come together and in that way get the people united.

A State convention is the first necessary step. Let a convention be called and held early in the Spring.

A UNION OF FORCES.

All indications point to the fact that it is the purpose of the Bryanites to make the Congressional elections of 1898 a preliminary battle to that of 1900. The leaders of the different wings of the Bryanite forces have met and declared that they will unite next fall on practically the same platform as that upon which Mr. Bryan ran for President in 1896. The Silver Democrats, the Populists and so-called silver Republicans are to unite for the purpose, if possible, of securing control of the next House of Representatives. If they should succeed next fall they will be greatly encouraged for the contest in the next Presidential election. It is the same dangerous combination that was defeated in 1896 by the Republican party, and it will become the duty of our party to accomplish the same end at the approaching Congressional election.

In 1896 a great many Democrats refused to support Bryan on account of the money plank in his platform and because of his adherence to Populist doctrines. There has been no decrease in the number of Democrats who despise the principles of Populism. Upon the contrary we have every reason to believe that the number has increased. Those Democrats who believe in a sound currency and who are opposed to the dangerous teachings of Populism will stand with the Republicans in the Congressional fight next fall. So there will be practically the same alignment that was presented in 1896. If the friends of a sound money policy and good government are united there can be no doubt that victory will be given them.

RAISE MORE GRAIN.

Thousands of dollars are now going from Tazewell county to pay for wheat and flour. They are now being purchased by our merchants and millers by the car load. Every time a car load of Western flour is brought in at least six hundred dollars are sent out of the county, never to return. The county has sufficient splendid wheat lands to raise all the grain necessary for consumption in the county. Every year our farmers fail to raise enough they are inflicting a heavy loss upon themselves and all the people of the county. We trust they will soon realize this, and so increase the acreage of grain that Tazewell will become a shipper instead of a buyer of grain.

There is but one safe and logical alignment of the sound money Democrats. By themselves they can accomplish nothing, but working with the Republican party they can do effective service for the country. The great bulk of the Democratic party is in complete sympathy with the reactionary forces of Populism, and it is useless for the gold Democrats to try to turn them from their folly. Henceforth sound money Democrats will have to work with the Republican party or yield their convictions.

The Pulski "News-Review" gives its readers to understand that it considers the present Legislature a great failure. The "News-Review" is not the only Democratic paper in the State that thinks that way, but most of them are reluctant to express their sentiments.

The Troy, N. Y., "Times" has given a name to the new Bryan combination composed of Democrats, Populists and Silver Republicans. The Times calls them "Repopocrats."

Three addresses of the silver advocates, Jones, Butler and Towne have been called "an encyclopedia of denalogy."

SOUTH AND THE CURRENCY.

A Belief That Right Opinions Are Gaining Ground There.

Baltimore "American" (Rep.)

There can be no doubt that the cause of sound money is making some progress in the South. That advance is not as rapid as might be, not as rapid as it ought to be. Still, the advocates of financial heresies find that they cannot hold their own, and are obliged to make the confession that they are constantly losing ground in nearly every part of the Southern territory.

The South is rapidly becoming "one of the most important manufacturing sections of the country. Its industries are multiplying, and the development of its mineral resources is going on at a rapid rate. New railroads are building, new towns and villages are starting up, the population is increasing, and the tide of immigration is turning strongly in its direction. To carry on all this work, and to push it forward to magnificent results, the South needs and must have more capital. The amount it can itself supply and the amount that has already come to it from other parts of the country and the world will not suffice. It must have more, and to get all it needs it must give to that capital a guarantee against legislation that will deprive it of its legal value and steal from it legitimate profits. The South

should come into the ranks of the honest advocates of sound money and should stay there.

"The License of the Press."
Norfolk Pilot.

For a long period "the license of the press" has been a subject of much animadversion, but never before did the phrase bear the strange significance imposed upon it by a town in the State of Virginia, in the great Republic of the United States of America. It is true that one of our early royal colonial governors thanked God that there was "no printing press in Virginia, nor likely to be," but it was never suspected that that tyrannical and Tory sentiment still lurked anywhere within our bounds since Washington, Patrick Henry, Jefferson and the 4th of July, 1776, to break out at last, at this late day, in this city of Norfolk, which has produced so many heroes by hand and pen, to vindicate the principles proclaimed by Jefferson and Henry, and so well and compactly expressed by the latter, when he cried: "As for me, give me liberty, or give me death."

It marks a sad, shameful and horrible stage of degeneracy among us, from "liberty to death" to "money, and I'm yours, body and soul." To think, Oh, ye spirits of the patriots of 1776, of the Revolution and of the Constitution and Union, that already we have come to this, that under the flimsy pretext of the right of taxation, the freedom of the press is stricken down, backed and gagged,—ay, assassinated (as on the night of Duncan's murder by Macbeth:

"An eagle, tow'ring in his pride of place,
Was by a mousing owl hawked at and slain."

The press, with suppliant petition in one hand and money in the other, has to bow to petty officials and ask leave to print—for permission to publish,—and buy it, money down, cash in advance. Yet, disgraceful as it is that the freedom of the press and of speech should thus be made a matter of truck and barter, that is a small matter when it is considered that the press is put to license—that it dare not lift its head and open its mouth until it has asked for and obtained the written consent of certain persons. The money involved is, of itself, of little consequence, mere dust in the balance; it is the usurpation of power involved to silence and control the free press and free speech as A MERE INCIDENT OF THE POWER OF TAXATION: that freedom of speech and press which underlies all freedom, upon which our government and its constitutions are founded and which those instruments recognize as possessing a sanctity beyond the touch of Legislatures, Congress, courts and all powers known to free institutions, and a government of the people, by the people, for the people.

Even without the pretext of a tax, this assumption of authority to say to the press that it shall not print nor publish without a permit and on certain prescribed conditions, no matter what, is a monstrous pretension, and one that must subvert all human liberty wherever it is allowed. In itself, it is the overthrow of free government, for it once at destroys "the right preservative of all rights," and that freedom which is the very breath of life to all other freedom. Ay, even with a bonus or subsidy, the license which any power assumes to grant the press is an ignominy, an outrage, a monstrous pretension, and an insidious blow at all popular right and government, that should be spurned indignantly.

The power of tax is the highest power known to the earth, and if it be given without limitation to petty municipal governments, liberty is doomed. Here, in this usurpation of a power to permit or to refuse to permit the publication of a newspaper,—a power never claimed nor exercised by any state, or by the United States,—the councils of this city arrogate to themselves, by sublegation, an authority which neither our Legislature nor our Congress itself have ever exercised or claimed, and which, indeed, if words have any meaning, our constitutions expressly forbid them to exercise, and it is mere quibbling, or thimble-rigging, to include this power over the press, in an ordinary exercise of the power of taxation, and schedule free speech and free press between license to keep a public laundry or to engage in the removal of night soil.

As to Proofs of Prosperity.
Chicago "Inter Ocean" (Rep.)

Are we prospering? There was a mass of snow on the streets yesterday morning; we know that in some residence districts not an idle man could be found willing to take a job of sidewalk cleaning. A year or two ago the drowsy householder was awakened from his sleep or was disturbed at his breakfast by peals at his bells made by men in search of a job. Last month the relieving officer for Cook county gave coal and provisions to 6116 families; in January, 1897, he gave help to 12,400. The outlay on county charities for January, 1898, was \$14,076; in January, 1898 it was \$32,221. Evidently prosperity is beginning to work, as it ought to, from the bottom up.

An Index of Progress.
Des Moines "Register" (Rep.)

The bank clearances are business barometers which fall not. The bank clearances of the entire country last week were:—

52 per cent. larger than a year ago.
58 per cent. larger than two years ago.
74 per cent. larger than three years ago.
84 per cent. larger than four years ago.

Here we have an ascending scale that ought to satisfy even the Populists that we are in better condition now than we have been in many years. All that we have to do is to keep our eyes straight ahead and keep our money and our credit both on the 100-cent gold basis.

Where New York Will Stand.
New York "Times" (Ind. Dem.)

The vast majority of the people of New York are for sound money, and they will say so at the polls if that issue stands in its present shape between the parties.

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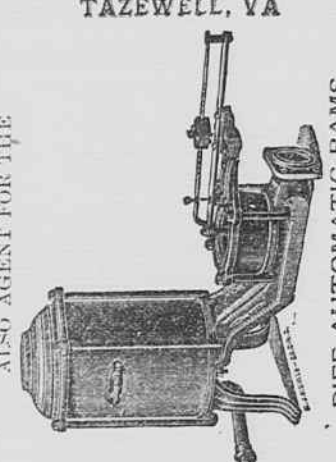
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